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# Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin



November 1979



RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

November 1979 Volume 52 No.4

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#### EDITORIAL NOTICE:

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The Bulletin is a publication for public, school, academic and special libraries of Rhode Island. Published by the Rhode Island Library Association, the Bulletin welcomes news and discussion of interest to RILA members. Articles contained herein, however, do not necessarily reflect the ideas of the RILA membership, or the Bulletin staff or advertisers. All articles about library and media matters will be considered. All should be signed and should not exceed ten double spaced typed pages unless the editor is consulted.

The Bulletin subscription rates are \$7.00/year for agencies or individuals not holding membership in RILA. Advertising rates per issue are \$20 per 1/2 page, \$35 per 1/2 page, and \$50 per full page. Call the advertising manager for further information.

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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



It's time for changing of the guard at the Rhode Island Library Association. The newly elected officers begin their terms with the RILA Annual Conference in November. Congratulations to the new officers, announced below. I look forward to a productive year. Much of the work of the Association is done in the Committees. See News from RILA in this issue for a report. The Conference is an occasion to consider what part of the action interests you. Talk to the committee members and join where you like.

It's time for change at the Bulletin too. I have asked the Executive Board to find a new person to join the Bulletin staff and follow me as Editor in a few months. Having worked two years on the Bulletin, one year, in January, as Editor, I

## RILA OFFICERS 1979/80

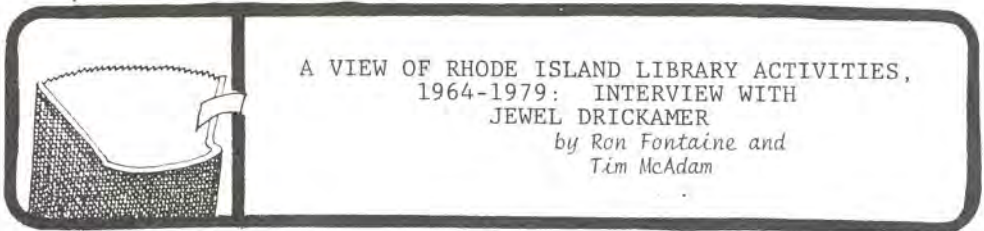
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want to hand on the responsibility before my energy runs out. I need to turn to other projects, and the Association needs the creative energy of someone with a new viewpoint to guide the Bulletin. I thoroughly enjoyed working on the Bulletin and I recommend the Editorship to you if the idea fascinates you. The Board invites all interested RILA members to apply to the Search Committee, c/o Louise Blalock Dolan, Barrington Public Library, 283 County Road, Barrington RI 02806.

In this issue we offer an overview of Rhode Island library activities based on an interview with Jewel Drickamer who served at the Department of State Library Services for fifteen years. Another article details an innovative project at the Woonsocket Harris Public Library.



A VIEW OF RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ACTIVITIES,  
1964-1979: INTERVIEW WITH  
JEWEL DRICKAMER

by Ron Fontaine and  
Tim McAdam

*Editor's Introduction: A knowledge of history is essential to understanding of the present situation and successful planning for action. Those many of us new to the Rhode Island scene look to the outstanding people with long experience here as actors and observers, to orient ourselves. Although I hope Miss Jewel Drickamer will in future be available in an advisory capacity, we took the occasion of her resignation at the Department of State Library Services to ask her for an overview of Rhode Island library development.*

The Department of State Library Services (DSLS) had it's start July 1, 1964. Prior to 1964 Professor Elmer Smith of Brown University was concerned about the lack of school libraries in Rhode Island and persuaded Brown University to obtain a grant to investigate the problem. It was discovered that public libraries were as lacking as the school libraries.

The grant resulted in a survey by John Humphry and Lucille Wickersham concluding with the publication of the book Library Cooperation. From the book came the Legislative Commission on Libraries which made a report to the General Assembly. From this report DSLS grew.

In 1964 the federal Library Services Act which had aided only rural libraries became the Library Services and Construction Act and could then serve all libraries. Public Library Service to Rural Areas was under the Secretary of State in Rhode Island. In effect, the staff of this agency became the Department of State Library Services in July 1964. Elizabeth Gallup Myer headed the original library agency. With a tiny staff she provided outstanding services to Rhode Island rural areas. With the increase of staff and scope of program she expanded creative library services.

DSLS is a department of state government and its director is appointed by the governor and serves in the governor's cabinet. Miss Myer was the first Director of DSLS. Jewel Drickamer joined the staff of DSLS in September 1964 as Deputy Director and was appointed Director in 1975.

DSLS was first located in the lower level of the Roger Williams Building. In 1967 DSLS moved to its present location on Davis Street.

Jewel Drickamer retired as Director of DSLS October 12. In an interview in early October Miss Drickamer spoke of the role DSLS has played in providing library service to the citizens of Rhode Island in the past 15 years. She spoke enthusiastically of the failures and triumphs of DSLS. One of DSLS's many triumphs is the Interrelated Library Network.

Rhode Island was the first state to emphasize interrelated library services. In 1967/68 the Rhode Island Interrelated Library Network and its five interrelated library systems were established. Establishment of the five interrelated library systems has enabled DSLS to coordinate on a cooperative basis library resources in Rhode Island and to provide improved library services to the citizens of Rhode Island.

DSLS has initiated a cooperative collection building program for foreign language materials. Five libraries purchase and maintain collections of Spanish, Portuguese, French, Polish and Italian materials.

DSLS has the largest collection of non-print books in the state and provides service to the blind and physically handicapped. They served 200 readers when the service was initiated in 1967-68. Presently they serve over 2,600 readers. Service to the blind and physically handicapped is chiefly a direct mail service. Patrons can request material over the phone and the material is sent by mail. Drickamer stated that a recent plus of this service has been the establishment of a WATS line. This was a recommendation of the Governor's Conference.

"One big thing we are very proud of in the department is that we have a very good record for interagency cooperation," Miss Drickamer stated. DSLS distributes approximately 10,000-15,000 items annually to libraries in the state for distribution to their clientele. Each of the five Interrelated Systems has a vehicle, driver and clerical person to facilitate the exchange of materials between the interrelated library systems and each system is headed by a coordinator, the librarian who plans the total program with the director.

DSLS has in excess of 100,000 titles and will lend books to libraries for up to six months to supplement their collection. This gives librarians a chance to test out an area they do not have holdings in and assess its popularity before investing money in a subject area. This also allows libraries to test out expensive titles. DSLS also houses a Professional Collection with extensive materials in the area of library science.

One of the Department's greatest achievements is its involvement with the construction of public libraries throughout Rhode Island. In January 1964, the Library Services and Construction Act was passed by the US House of Representatives, a bill in which Rhode Island Representative John Fogarty was heavily involved. This law provided for federal grants for the improvement and construction of public libraries.

DSLS and the state were quick to start a construction program here through the work of John Murray (then Chief Budget Officer of the state, now Assistant Administrator for Fiscal Affairs), Edmund Colletta (the state's present Budget Officer), and Jewel Drickamer. The program was set up where both the federal government and the state would provide



grants-in-aid to those towns or systems which were engaged in construction of new library buildings or renovation of existing facilities.

At the beginning financial assistance was provided by flat grants. This changed in 1966 as a new payment system, which is still in force today, came into being. The present law permits the Department of State Library services to pay, over a twenty year period, up to half of the total dollar amount for the work, including their debt service. Grants now originate from the state only as federal funding for RI library construction was discontinued in 1975. (New federal legislative proposals reinstate construction funds.)

Since the program's inception thirty-one libraries or systems have benefited from its assistance. Construction has been wide-spread throughout the state. New libraries include small branches (such as the Oaklawn branch of the Cranston Public Library System) and much larger libraries (Newport and Warwick Public libraries are examples). Some of these were relatively small projects, such as the Central Falls Free Public (\$55,000) with others being more complex and expensive (North Kingston Free Library for example, a 1.3 million project).

According to Drickamer, the Construction Statute has changed the face of Rhode Island. "The space within a building, the efficiency of that space and the attractiveness of it mean a lot to getting people in. The construction program has meant more than bricks and mortar. I don't believe there's a single construction project, big or little here, which hasn't meant, eventually, a better budget, more books, better qualified people, and better service, which is the reason for all this."

Another major accomplishment in the history of DSLS is the Incentive Grant Program begun in 1974. Through this program monies are given by the state to proposals, originating from public libraries, deemed worthwhile. Usually the money given to a project is in modest amounts: \$5,000 is considered the ceiling, with most grants around or under the \$2,000 mark.

For the most part, worthwhile ideas are of two kinds: 1) it may be a one-shot thing that a library's own budget wouldn't normally allow; or, 2) if it is an idea that the library wants continued, DSLS will give them the amount desired with hopes the town or city will pick up the tab the following year. The second kind of idea exactly fits the phrase "Incentive Grants." As Drickamer says, "It is more exciting to have a project picked up and carried on."



From its inception there has been great variety in the types of projects within the program. Taking a look at the funded projects for 1978 and 1979, we get a flavor of this variety:

- 1) History of the Portuguese in Jamestown -- Jamestown Philomenian Library
- 2) Outreach Program -- Coventry Public Library
- 3) Information and Referral Service -- Clark Memorial Library
- 4) Processing of Pre-packaged Slide-tape Shows for Easy Circulation -- Greenville Public Library

Speaking of some of the failures of DSLS Miss Drickamer stated, "most of the failures in my opinion were because we were ahead of our time. Once an idea has been tried it is hard to recycle it." In 1968-69 DSLS obtained one million dollars of state money, LSCA money and environmental development (EDA) money. It was planned that the money could be used in Woonsocket, Cumberland, and Lincoln which all needed libraries. In the end the libraries could never agree on a building program and the money was lost. Miss Drickamer referred to this as "her million dollar error."

In 1968 DSLS had the idea of using mini-buses to transport patrons to libraries with their library cards being used as tickets. In 1968 the idea was laughed at, Miss Drickamer said. Today vans are a common and economical mode of transportation for senior citizens about the state.

DSLS initiated a central processing center for Rhode Island Libraries in 1967. Librarians could deliver their book orders to DSLS and DSLS would order and process the books. The books would be delivered to the libraries complete with catalog cards. This service was discontinued in 1975 chiefly because of lack of support from public libraries.

While admitting the failures Drickamer is proud of the fact that DSLS tried and tested their ideas.

Before concluding our interview with Miss Drickamer, we asked for her outlook on the future of library services to the state of Rhode Island. She expressed an optimistic attitude, especially as far as the recommendations of the recent Governor's Conference on Library Services were concerned.

The first recommendation of the Governor's Conference is to establish a Department of Library Archives and Information Services. This body shall have responsibility for the functions and activities that are presently undertaken by DSLS, the State Library, the State Archives, the State Records Center, the

Court Records Center, and the State Documents Distribution Center. The new entity could encompass three divisions: 1) State Information Services, 2) Archives and Records, and 3) State Library Services. Programs similar to this are already in effect in New York and New Jersey. According to Miss Drickamer, a program such as this has been lacking in this state for too long a time. Fragmentation has resulted in little cooperation among the present state library agencies.

Other recommendations include one to create the position of Supervisor of Young Adult Services. As of the moment those services are rendered by the combined efforts of the Children and Adult Supervisors. Also among the resolutions is a request for the Department of Education to "reestablish and fill the position of Coordinator of School Library Services."

High among Miss Drickamer's concerns for the future is a possible Automated Network for the libraries in the state. Miss Drickamer was confident as she spoke of who would be running the libraries in the future. "It is heartening to note the number of wonderful young people coming into the state's libraries. They will give great service to Rhode Island library patrons for quality service is their main concern."



## NEWS FROM RILA

by Judith Plotz

RILA is forging ahead into new activities, largely through the work of its committees. The Personnel Committee has prepared several documents which the Executive Board examined and voted to accept. One is a letter to Rhode Island library boards of trustees explaining the RILA Security of Employment Statement and their fact-finding process in cases of disputes. The Board also approved a Request for Action form to be used by librarians having a grievance against their employer. The Grievance Procedure has not yet been requested. The Personnel Committee will present their work to the RILA membership at the Fall Conference.

The Government Relations Committee presented a plan to the Board to hire a Legislative Monitor rather than a Lobbyist. This person would work part-time, January through early May, being the liaison officer between the Association and the State General Assembly. The Monitor would keep the Government Relations Committee informed of legislative activity, and present to legislators information from RILA. The Government Relations Committee has asked for \$900.00 from the RILA budget for this activity. The Board voted support of the plan. The Government Relations Committee will present a special issue of legislative information in the December Bulletin.

New appointments include the following: Dan Bergen has been asked to be the official RILA Observer at the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. He is leaving the Executive Board after five years of service on it. He has a broad view of the concerns of the many sectors within the Association and will be a fine representative in Washington. Annalee Bundy has been appointed to chair the RILA Committee to reexamine Public Library Standards in Rhode Island. RILA developed the original Standards which were adopted by the State. The Department of State Library Services has invited the Association to update the Standards. The Board is now searching for a member to join the Bulletin staff and succeed me as Editor in a few months. A Search Committee will review candidates.







## RILA SRRT HOTLINE

The RILA Bulletin editors ask local library employers in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut to send us news of upcoming openings at any level in their libraries. There is no advertising fee. Write or call Barbara Cohen, Adams Library, Rhode Island College, Providence, R.I. 02908. Telephone 401-456-8225.

Job-seekers desiring a copy of the most recent monthly Jobline may obtain one by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the SRRT coordinator: Marcia Hershoff, Woonsocket Harris Public Library, Woonsocket, RI 02895. In order for a job notice to appear in the Bulletin, it must be received before the 15th of the preceding month.

WOONSOCKET PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, SUBSTITUTE LIBRARY PERSONNEL. Individuals must be certified as Teachers of Library Science by the RI Dept. of Education. Salary: \$25.00/day. Applications available from Louis R. Leveillee, Coordinator of Media Services, 350 Newland Ave., Woonsocket, RI 02985 (401)766-0770.

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT, AUDIO-VISUAL LIBRARIAN. To administer sound recordings area - develop, catalog and maintain collection; train student assistants; provide library instruction; prepare bibliographies/ Required: ALA-accredited MLS, knowledge of at least one modern European language/ Preference given to candidates with degree in music and/or interest in musicology. Knowledge of av cataloging rules and av equipment essential. Minimum salary: \$11,500. Send resume, names of 3 references, and graduate school placement file by Nov. 30 to: Milton Crouch, Asst. Director for Reader Services, Bailey Library, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405 (NYT Sept 30)

### TUFTS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

1) ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN IN CATALOGING. Duties include descriptive cataloging, subject heading selection, LC classification, and preparation of final copy for computer input; supervision of library assistants; participation in Reference Desk schedule; computer searches, and book selection. Required: ALA-accredited MLS; background in life sciences, and professional cataloging experience with LC desirable. Minimum salary: \$12,000.

2) ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN, REFERENCE/CATALOGING. Duties similar to those of position described above, with assignment equally divided between cataloging and reference. Required: ALA-accredited MLS, working knowledge of OCLC, interest and ability to work effectively in both public and technical services. Minimum salary: \$11,600. Send resume and names of 3 references by Dec. 15 to: Joseph Komidar, University Librarian, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155 (Chron Oct 1).

BUTLER HOSPITAL MEDICAL LIBRARY, VOLUNTEER LIBRARIAN. To work December 3-14, 1979, while the regular librarian is on vacation. To work 3-6 hours a day, 2-5 days a week. Suitable for a student or retired librarian. Reply to: Estelle Singer, Coordinator of Volunteers, 456-3776, Butler Hospital, Blackstone Blvd, Providence RI 02906.

LIBRARIAN I IN TECHNICAL SERVICES, Pawtucket Public Library. Position involves bibliographic searching, preparation of orders, and receiving utilizing a newly installed online acquisitions system. Also some original cataloging using MARC format, AACR-LC cataloging rules and LC classification. Library went on-line June 4th with CLSI automated circulation system. MLS from ALA-accredited library school, knowledge of one or more foreign languages, bibliographic tools, and LC cataloging required; experience with automated cataloging systems such as OCLC desirable. Position available immediately. Starting salary \$9,630+ depending in education and experience. Apply to: Lawrence A. Eaton, Director, 13 Summer Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860. An EEO Employer.



## CALENDAR

*The RILA Calendar is maintained by RILA's Continuing Education Committee. If you have a date for any event of library/media interest, please telephone it to Pat Bisshopp, 438-9500, or mail it to her at Meeting Street School, 667 Waterman Ave., E. Providence, RI 02914. All meetings listed here are open to interested members of the library community, except as noted.*

Nov. 8


"Citizens for Rhode Island Libraries," Graduate Library School Colloquium, speakers Gail Barnaby and Roberta Cairns. URI Library Lounge, 8:00 pm.

Nov. 8 - Dec. 20

"Advanced Management," course meeting 6 Thursdays, sponsored by the RI Department of Community Affairs. For information call Mary Cimini, 277-2877.

Nov. 13

"Basic OCLC Training," Simmons School of Library Science. Fee: \$150. 6:30-9:00 pm. For information call Dr. Ching-Chih Chen.

- Nov. 13 "The Retarded Citizen and the Public Library," Northern Region Workshop.
- Nov. 14 Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative: "Preview of Children's Films," Warwick Public Library, 9:30 am-noon; repeated at 1:30-4:00pm
- Nov. 15 - 19  White House Conference on Library and Information Services, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC.
- Nov. 17 "Storytelling and the Child," Simmons School of Library Science. Fee: \$25. 9:00am-3:45pm. For more information call Dr. Ching-Chih Chen.
- Nov. 19-Dec. 17 "Time Management," course meeting 5 Mondays, sponsored by the RI Department of Community Affairs. For information call Mary Cimini, 277-2877.
- Nov. 20 "Basic OCLC Training," Simmons School of Library Science. Fee: \$150. 6:30-9:00pm. For information call Dr. Ching-Chih Chen.
- Nov. 27 "Library Skills for Historical Societies," Graduate Library School Colloquium, speakers Al Klyberg, RI Historical Society, and Dave Maslyn, URI Library. Rodman Hall, 4:00pm.
- Nov. 28 RI NELINET User's Group. Potential NELINET members are invited. James P. Adams Library, Rhode Island College, 9:45 am. Contact Lucille Sibulkin, 274-4900, x305.
- Nov. 28 Young Adult Round Table (YART): "Religion and Cults," Department of State Library Services, 9:30-11:30 am.
- Nov. 28 - Dec. 19 "Grantship III: Proposal Writing," course meeting 4 Wednesdays, sponsored by the RI Department of Community Affairs. Fee: \$28. For information






call Rick Smith, 277-2877.

Dec. 4

"The Retarded Citizen and the Public Library," Island Region Workshop.

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## **RHODE ISLAND POPULAR READING** **THE LAY OF THE LAND**

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## **BLACKS IN RHODE ISLAND**

*by Rowena Stewart*

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*Richard K. Showman, editor*

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*by David Patten, 1977*

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*by Richard L. Champlin*

This charming little book describes the splendid variety of trees which are found on the magnificent mansion estates owned by the Preservation Society of Newport County. 94 pages, paper. **\$2.00**

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An account of the establishment, destruction and restoration of the burying place of Benedict Arnold, First Governor of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Well-illustrated, including rubbings, 140 pages, index, paper. **\$4.75**

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#### NORTH KINGSTOWN -AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

*by Dr. Patrick T. Conley*

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*by Robert W. Kenny, Professor Emeritus, Brown University.*

A brief account of the College of Rhode Island, now Brown University, and the Providence community during the American Revolution. 40 pages, illustrated, paper. **\$1.95**

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*by C. Foster Browning, et al.*

A collection of original drawings and descriptive narrative provides the reader with an insight into one of Rhode Island's most charming areas. 64 pages, illustrated, paper. **\$4.75.**

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A collection of 173 poems by the legendary Warwick poetess who has captured the essence of a community in her rhyming reflections. 96 pages, paper. **\$5.00.**

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Knight Memorial  
Library

Island  
December 4  
Barrington Public  
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Presented by:

The Rhode Island  
Library Association  
Outreach Committee

The Rhode Island  
Department of MMRH,  
Division of  
Retardation

The Rhode Island  
Department of State  
Library Services

## *The Retarded Citizen and the Public Library:*

### *a Workshop on Service*

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

\*\* GUEST SPEAKERS \*\*

ALVIN RUSIN, Teacher, Ladd Center, and Member, State  
Advisory Council on Libraries, and

MARK BALDWIN, Supervisor of Institutional Library  
Services, Department of State Library Services

Please return this form to: Judith Meister,  
Kingston Free Library, 1329 Kingstown Road,  
Kingston, RI 02881.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LIBRARY: \_\_\_\_\_

SYSTEM: \_\_\_\_\_

WORKSHOP DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration will be limited to 20 persons.

FREE!

Coffee  
will be  
served.

Workshops will include information on:  
types of mental retardation,  
state plans for deinstitutionalization,  
the mentally retarded library patron,  
print and non-print materials,  
and services from DSLS.





## NELA CONFERENCE NOTES: TWO REPORTS

The annual New England Library Association Conference at Sturbridge on September 23-25 brought many Rhode Island librarians together with their counterparts from northern Maine to southern Connecticut. Almost every discussion whether it was in a meeting or around the exhibit tables mentioned computers or some other aspect of the theme, "The New Technologies."

Discussions of the New York Times Information Bank and the Lockheed system opened the meeting on Sunday. Edwin Newman's "Preserving a civil tongue" at the first evening's dinner emphasized the deterioration of the English language with humorous examples from the press and media.

Films, children's literature, serving the institutionalized, and the library user were well-attended meeting topics. A report by faculty from Simmons outlined the procedures being used for a telephone survey of citizen's information needs in New England. It was estimated that it would take 10,000 phone calls to provide 400 interviews for each state. A preliminary report of results from Massachusetts indicated that the most important information problems were: 1) consumer questions, 2) housing, 3) technical, 4) changing jobs and 5) organizational (their job situation). The entire study will be finished for presentation at the White House Conference.

Another survey at several libraries in Connecticut showed that the typical user at the Hartford Public Library was male, a resident, 26-45, didn't ask for help, did not check anything out, and spent 15 minutes in the library weekly.

The attendance of the three Canadian provincial librarians added an international flavor, and their discussion of library services for the various provinces showed the lack of support of the national government, the individuality of the provinces, and the advances which have been made despite problems of large areas and 24 non-official languages besides the official bilingual policy. The beginning salary for a librarian in Saskatchewan is about \$16,000 but they warned that it is difficult for a US citizen to get a job there.

The most exciting meeting, however, had to be the one on the videodisc and its potential impact on everything from

educational materials to microfilms. Charles Goldstein from the National Library of Medicine mentioned that the 3,000,000 citations in the MEDLINE file could be stored on one disc and copies produced for \$10 (production costs). An interesting project underway is an interactive audio-visual medical encyclopedia.

New officers elected at the annual meeting were: Norma Creaghe, St. Anselm's College, Manchester NH, Vice President and President-Elect; Amy Howlett, Southeast Regional Library, Brattleboro VT, Secretary; Clifton Giles, University of Southern Maine, Gorham ME, Treasurer; John Jackson, Mary Cheney Library, Manchester NH, Director. The new President and Chairman of this conference is Edward Chenevert, Portland Public Library ME.

Although mini-computers, automated systems and the impact of technology on library operations were a great part of the corridor discussions, still services, continuing education, budgets and materials occupied the conversations among the exhibitors and all of the participants. NELA members are looking forward to next year's conference at Wentworth-By-The-Sea.

-Jan Sieburth  
NELA Councilor

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Having spent two days at the 32nd Annual Conference of the New England Library Association, I think I could best characterize it as being, on the whole, better than the sum of its parts.

Monday's meetings left me with a feeling of discouragement- if this was all the experts in the library field had to say about the "New Technology," then libraries seemed to be the poorest stepchild of the 20th century; after Tuesday, however, the picture brightened considerably.

The morning program which I attended on Monday, "New Wine in Old Bottles: How To Tell Good Films From Bad Films," was extremely enjoyable, somewhat informative, but not particularly relevant to the theme of the conference. The alternative morning program, a report on a project to investigate citizens' information needs, would have been better suited to a written progress report than a lengthy oral presentation.

However, everyone was eagerly anticipating Susan Martin, scheduled to speak in the afternoon, who has long been a

pioneer on the rocky frontier of technology in libraries. Her topic, "What Do We Really Need to Know to Keep Up To Date With New Technology?" promised much but delivered less than hoped for. Perhaps in an attempt to reach the many conference attendees from small libraries to which automated systems remain in the "someday, maybe" category, Ms. Martin's presentation was too broad and superficial to be truly valuable to those of us who attend conferences not to hear a recapitulation of all we already know, but rather to learn what is in store in the library's future. One important point she did make, however, is that librarians must learn enough about the available technologies to enable them to clearly specify precisely those functions which they wish an automated system to perform, and then to look carefully for a system which will do all those things. Otherwise, we are at the mercy of vendors who cannot be expected to have our best interests foremost in their minds.

But for all of you who agree that a conference should be a mind-expanding glimpse at what lies ahead rather than behind, I can enthusiastically report that Tuesday's morning program on "Videodisc Technology" more than fulfilled the promise of the NELA Conference theme. Charles Goldstein, Chief of Computer Technology at the National Library of Medicine, presented an exciting introduction to a new medium which has the potential to revolutionize the information field. The Videodisc, which looks like a reflecting, rainbow-colored, floppy LP, and transmits both audio and visual information, has a storage capacity much greater than any other medium now available, and will make possible the dissemination of enormous quantities of all types of information at very low prices. One example of the potential capacity of the videodisc is the capability to store pictures of all the world's great art treasures on one side of one videodisc! But even more exciting than the actual technology itself is the knowledge that this and other new technologies are being explored and successfully utilized by real librarians in real libraries (albeit with budgets which would probably seem unreal to most of us!)

The afternoon program presented by Richard Boss, "Technical Services in the Paperless Library," successfully integrated much of what had gone before. He reemphasized Susan Martin's points regarding the need for librarians to become intelligent consumers of technology, able to articulate their requirements and evaluate all possibilities in light of these needs. He also articulated what he foresees as the changing role of the librarian in the face of the increasing availability of online information systems in everyday life. He feels that we will be looked to to help people formulate their information needs in the form of questions intelligible to the computer, to interpret



information provided by computerized data bases, and to organize and disseminate information more detailed and/or esoteric than that which is available online.

As has been said before, trying to plan a conference to please everyone is not a simple task; in sum, I feel that NELA succeeded fairly well in doing that, although a consolidation of all the programs into two rather than three days would have insured a more substantial and thought-provoking offering to the many people who could attend only one day of the Conference.

- Barbara Cohen



WOONSOCKET HARRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY'S  
PROJECT: JOB READY  
*by Joyce Brothers*

Is the public library's role simply to collect, organize, and circulate materials? William DeJohn writes that many librarians "would add a new category of responsibilities, identified as 'social responsibilities'...aimed at making libraries active instruments of social betterment."\* DeJohn feels that the library should attempt to reach non-users, be sensitive to social issues, and select materials (including unusual materials) to serve the entire community.

For many years, public libraries have been trying to attract new users, as well as select materials to serve the entire community. Many of these libraries have shown a sensitivity to social issues, but not actively. Woonsocket Harris Public Library, Woonsocket, Rhode Island, took the initiative in organizing and conducting "Project: Job Ready."

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\*DeJohn, William. "Library: Social Responsibilities," Encyclopedia Americana. New York, Grolier Educational Corporation, 1976, XVII, p. 384.

The goal for this library was to participate actively in aiding the unemployed and the underemployed of the Woonsocket area to gain skills and information needed to obtain satisfactory jobs.

The Director of Woonsocket Harris Public Library, Charles Moore, was acutely aware of both the high unemployment rate in the Woonsocket area and the limited amount of up-to-date employment and career-related materials in the library's collection. Therefore he proceeded to draw up a proposal for an Incentive Grant from Rhode Island's Department of State Library Services. The Department of State Library Services has made Incentive Grants of up to \$5,000 available to public libraries throughout the state since 1974, from a combination of state and federal resources. The purpose of the grants is to encourage libraries to try innovative methods of service. DSLS prefers to give small grants since, if the program is successful, it is easier for the library to fit that program into its next year's budget.

A total of \$2,000 was allotted to the Woonsocket Harris Public Library for Project: Job Ready. Of that amount, \$1,500 was used to purchase material on basic clerical and vocational skills, instructional information needed to pass the high school equivalency examination, newspapers with job listing, armed forces and civil service study guides, information on techniques for job applications, and resume writing materials. The collection includes books, pamphlets, and filmstrips.

Besides giving the \$2,000 grant, DSLS also loaned many titles on various occupations, listing both requirements and outlook for employment. The collection of career-oriented books, pamphlets, and study guides was placed in an easy-to-see corner near the entrance of the library, complete with comfortable chairs and good lighting for those patrons wishing to review material in the library.

The readers' advisor for the library who holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration acted as coordinator of "Project: Job Ready." He was responsible for organizing and scheduling the job workshops, for selecting, ordering, and borrowing materials relating to types of careers; and for the extremely important job of advertising both the series of workshops and the availability of the new information. The aim of the program was to reach a particular target group: those adults in the community who were seeking employment, considering changing careers, or thinking of re-entering the job market, AND who had been out of high school for some time. The library was concerned about the lack of regular programs of skill development for adults.

The remaining \$500 of the \$2,000 grant was used for printing brochures and posters and for placing ads in the Woonsocket newspaper and on the two Woonsocket radio stations. (The local media did mention that the job workshops would be held each week in their public service announcements, but it was felt that more intensive advertising was needed.) The posters were placed in markets, department stores, restaurants, bars, and other local business establishments.

The Woonsocket Harris Public Library did not rely merely on the conventional print and non-print resources available in the library to bring information to the unemployed and the underemployed of the community. The value of human resources was never underestimated. The library presented a ten-week series of job workshops as part of the "Project: Job Ready" program aimed at providing information in several fields of employment. Career representatives (not recruiters) discussed the job outlook, requirements and skills needed, and the range of salaries paid in their particular careers. The presentations - consisting of lectures, slides, and films - were followed by question-and-answer periods. The workshops were held each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. from September 7 to November 9, 1977, in the library's meeting room (especially equipped for showing films and slides). All workshops were free to the general public.

On September 7, an employee of the Woonsocket Institution for Savings discussed various aspects of banking, along with educational and experience requirements. Fifteen men and women attended. The coordinator of the program informed the participants of available titles in the field of banking and in the review and improvement of mathematical skills.

On September 15, representatives from the US Air Force and US Army appeared before a small but very interested audience of two young men and one young woman. A film on basic training in the Air Force gave information on classroom training and (of course) physical training. The speakers emphasized the pay scale for all branches of the military and the career development courses that are available after formal training. Eighty-five per cent of the courses at military community colleges earn college credit. Guides for preparing for entrance examinations were available in the career information collection.

The third workshop, September 21, focused on hospital careers discussed by the assistant personnel director from Woonsocket Hospital. The twenty-five men and women attending were advised on positions in nursing and other hospital fields, and the education and experience required. Slides



were shown on the wide range of positions in the field of hospital administration.

After the third workshop, the coordinator mentioned his satisfaction with the participation at the job workshops and his confidence that he had indeed reached some of the target group. Much interest had been generated by the workshops, as demonstrated by circulation of many of the titles that had been brought to the attention of those attending.

On September 28, the City of Woonsocket's Personnel Director spoke about positions in municipal government. Sixteen men and women viewed a film on taking tests, an important prerequisite for municipal positions.

On October 5, the Director of Planning and Marketing of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) spoke to eight men about the many types of positions involved in running a transportation service: scheduling, mechanics, driving, utility, marketing and planning, supervisory, and clerical. Educational background requirements were discussed. The speaker emphasized that this field is open to women, and that RIPTA presently has seven or eight female bus drivers. An Arco book for bus drivers (on operating procedures) is available in the career collection.

The sixth workshop, held on October 12, featured the new Director of Adult Education of the state-operated Davies Vocational-Technical School in Lincoln. Courses are offered in automotive mechanics, carpentry, data processing, drafting, food service, and many other fields. The three male participants had many questions about the amount of time spent in the shop versus time spent in the classroom, tuition fees, and placement service. Available material in the library included Arco books on welding; basic books on catering, carpentry, record keeping, and many other occupations offered by the school; and The Occupational Handbook (giving public trends and pay rates).

On October 19, a SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) representative discussed owning and operating a small business. Topics included finances, government regulations, record keeping, and common pitfalls encountered by the novice. SCORE works closely with the Small Business Administration in an advisory (and voluntary) capacity. A film on business problems was shown to the nineteen men and women attending.

On October 26, eight men and women heard a representative of Woonsocket High School's adult education department speak on the importance of a high school education and how to get an equivalency diploma.

On November 2, Mr. Elphege Nadeau discussed the job of hand loom operator with eight men and women. He is well known in northern Rhode Island as inventor of the hand loom.

The tenth workshop held November 9 featured a representative of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. One participant was informed of careers with that company, and with insurance companies in general.

The coordinator of the program felt that the number of participants had been sizeable - an average of eleven per week. (I should mention here that I did not include myself in the count of those attending each workshop). Except for the two sessions on military careers and on insurance careers, the audiences included men and women of all ages.

Obviously, the \$2,000 was well spent. Much new material relating to employment skills was purchased and is available to area residents. Through the workshops, people obtained much information that is not always easy to locate in printed form; also they were made aware of resources in the library that they may not have been aware of previously. We may never know to what extent the program has helped these adults in their quest for employment.

What was most important, in my opinion, was the fact that Woonsocket Harris Public Library was sensitive to the role that they could play in aiding and supporting their community. Social responsibility should be an active concern for librarians. The Job Ready project was imaginative and innovative, particularly because of its use of human resources and because of its comprehensive advertising campaign; also, it was aimed at adults who had been out of school several years. This was a thoughtful program which appeared to meet with some success. Let us hope that other public libraries are encouraged to reach out to their communities in a similarly creative fashion.



# GALLIMAUFRY

INTERLIBRARY RETURN PILOT PROJECT: ILR among public libraries ought to be as natural as ILL, and a lot simpler and faster, according to the pilot project conducted last summer in Rhode Island. During June, July, and August, patrons were notified by bookmark that they could return books to any participating public library in Rhode Island.

This project was concocted at a meeting of systems directors and coordinators, while studying recommendations emerging from the Governor's Conference. While some libraries (in the Northern system, for instance) had sanctioned and encouraged ILR in the past, no "official" study had ever been made. During the three-month project routing slips were used - and kept for analysis. Within a month's time the analysis will be made. Meanwhile, what are the advantages and disadvantages of permitting (even encouraging) ILR?

The feeling of all libraries participating is positive. There were no mixups, no confusions...except that some DSLS books deposited at libraries and loaned by them, were returned to DSLS through the ILR system, rather than to the library that issued the book to the patron. A problem easily corrected. It would seem that as long as our drivers are out there, there's no reason why patrons can't enjoy returning books to the most convenient place. A service that helps everybody involved, a service - can you believe it? - that doesn't cost any money.

- Rick Robbins

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DIRECTOR FOR DSLS: Governor Garrahy has appointed a Search Committee for the position of Director of the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services. The Committee has met and written an announcement of the position to be placed in newspapers and library journals for a nation-wide search.

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GRANT FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES: Could you use an additional \$75,000 for your library to initiate programming for senior citizens? How about \$20,000 for collection development on the social and cultural history of the state? Or \$20,000 for a program on local interracial relations? In this era of shrinking or at least no longer expanding funds, libraries need to tap all possible sources for funding. Rhode Island is a state





rich in many resources useful in successful grant proposal writing: cooperating libraries and community agencies or groups, bright and creative librarians, academic institutions with helpful faculties, as well as varied ethnic and cultural groups. We may not have strong financial resources but we do have all of the elements necessary to successful grantsmanship.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has TWO MILLION DOLLARS in its "Public Libraries Program" for grants in support of programs for the general public in all types of libraries. All types of libraries, including state agencies, regional systems, and library associations, may participate. The head of the program, Nancy Doyle Bolt, has visited Rhode Island and talked to librarians here. She is very interested in receiving grants from libraries in this area. So what are you waiting for? She will send brochures, official guidelines, and a list of previous grants. Write to her at the Public Library Program, NEH, 806 15th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506. Deadline dates are November 19, 1979 (just missed that one) and February 18, 1980. Maybe some of the creative minds of RILA could set up a Grants Committee to brainstorm proposal ideas to involve the entire state, and to increase RILA's budget and visibility. How about it?

- Bee Lufkin

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MARKETPLACE: Wanted to buy:

- Used, but good, film loop (Super 8mm) projector.
- Labelle 16mm projector.

Wanted to trade:

- Logic and Persuasion, sound filmstrip. Value: \$48. High school/College level. For audio-visual in following fields: Communication, English Composition, Electronics, Carpentry.

Contact: Mrs. Ann Dickson, Librarian, New England Institute of Technology, Providence RI 02907. Telephone: 467-7744.

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PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THE BLACK: Providence Public Library is expanding its services this year as a result of its dramatically improved financial position. After years of growing deficits, this year the library has a surplus of \$18,575. Director Annalee Bundy was instrumental in persuading the city and state governments to increase their support by about \$160,000 each. Library officials hope this means a continuing commitment by both governments to finance library services. Providence Public Library and all its eight branches have returned to six-day schedules this fall. The book budget is \$150,000, up from \$100,000 in recent years, and library staff may grow.



## QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Library use is most highly related to activity. An individual active in other aspects of life, whether it be community organizations, politics, work, or sports, is also likely to be a library user. Libraries are simply part of the lifestyle of active people."

Lifestyles of Library Users and  
Nonusers, Michael Madden, 1979.

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"When I examine myself and my methods of thought, I come to the conclusion that the gift of fantasy has meant more to me than my talent for absorbing positive knowledge."

Albert Einstein

\*\*\*\*\*

"'cost-benefit ratio'...The term descends like a death sentence on any proposal that would apply creative imagination to socially essential programs or long-range goals..."

The effect of CBR is that political decisions are governed not by human needs or by the dictates of conscience but by a computer printout. But CBR is a fallacy. It ignores the fact that the main source of a nation's wealth is to be found in the developed mind of its citizenry...

How can a dollar figure be attached to the increase of knowledge in the interrelationship between human life and the laws of the universe? Who but a fool would demand assurance of a monetary return on the next great development of the human species? How is the emergence of a collective consciousness or a sense of common destiny to be valued?"

Norman Cousins, Saturday Review,  
April 14, 1979.

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"It is the profession of librarianship that is concerned with knowledge about knowledge..."

Evelyn H. Daniel



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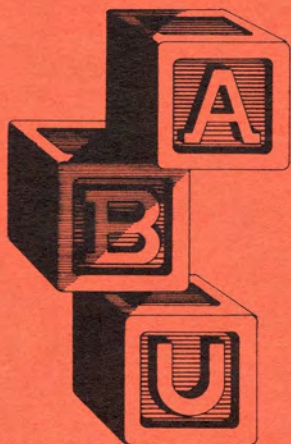
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**A** is for Apple computers

**B** is for Bell & Howell

but the initial  
idea to remember is

**U** for Unicom

Can your library use a micro computer? Come to the Unicom booth at RILA and see a demonstration of the fabulous, new Bell & Howell micro computer by Apple.

Learn about Apple's advanced technology, Bell & Howell's growing software system, and Unicom's local service organization.

And, if you're really hungry, ask for an apple while you're there.

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